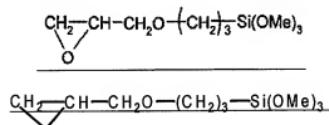


Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend page 3, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the specification as follows:

The compound of formula (1) may be, for example, (3-glycidoxypropyl)trimethoxysilane:



In a basic medium, the organosilicon compound grafts onto the HEC or the HPMC, opening the epoxide, and the methoxysilane groups are hydrolyzed to produce a polymer of simplified formula:

